

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 280426

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /011 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:ASCHIFFERDECKER:MRC

APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON

NEA/PAB:PDCONSTABLE

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O 232220Z DEC 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN, AF

SUBJECT: CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

FOR AMBASSADOR

1. AS WE APPROACH THIS HOLIDAY SEASON, I WISH TO EXPRESS MY GREAT APPRECIATION TO YOU AND THE MEMBERS OF YOUR MISSION IN KABUL FOR YOUR FULL AND UNSTINTING SUPPORT DURING THE PAST YEAR.

2. FOR THE NEA AREA THIS HAS BEEN A YEAR OF ACCOMPLISHMENT, PARTICULARLY IN THE ARAB-ISRAEL CONTEXT, AS WELL AS A YEAR OF DIFFICULT READJUSTMENT TO NEW ECONOMIC REALITIES. MUCH WORK OF COURSE REMAINS TO BE DONE.

3. IN SOUTH ASIA WE HAVE WITNESSED STEADY PROGRESS IN OUR OBJECTIVE OF NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS AMONG THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION; AND WE HAVE REALIZED OUR OWN AIMS OF ENHANCING OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH ALMOST EVERY SOUTH ASIAN NATION.

4. ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF MY FIRST YEAR AS NEA ASSISTANT

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PAGE 02 STATE 280426

SECRETARY WAS MY FIRST VISIT TO AFGHANISTAN WITH THE

SECRETARY IN EARLY NOVEMBER. WITH YOUR FINE HELP THE

SECRETARY'S TALKS IN KABUL HELPED TO ADD TO THE FRIENDLY
RELATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN. I WAS ALSO
DELIGHTED TO HAVE A FIRST-HAND OPPORTUNITY TO MEET
PERSONALLY WITH AFGHAN LEADERS AS WELL AS WITH MANY OF
YOU. SINCE MY VISIT TO KABUL I AM EVEN MORE GRATEFUL TO
ALL OF YOU FOR YOUR PERFORMANCE UNDER DIFFICULT CONDITIONS
IN ADVANCING THE INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES.

5. ON BEHALF OF ALL YOUR COLLEAGUES IN NEA, I WISH TO
EXTEND MY VERY BEST WISHES FOR A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A
HAPPY AND PRODUCTIVE NEW YEAR TO EACH OF YOU AND YOUR
FAMILIES. SINCERELY, ALFRED L. ATHERTON.

6. DECONTROL UPON RECEIPT. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE280426
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ASCHIFFERDECKER:MRC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740373-0434
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741214/aaaaalkn.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13-Aug-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <20 MAR 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FOR AMBASSADOR
TAGS: OGEN, AF
To: KABUL
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005